

## **SRTS News:**

### **Encouraging Safe Bicycling and Walking to School**

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## **New Hampshire Gears Up for Safe Routes to School**

Schools from Nashua to the North Country are shifting into higher gear as they make plans to **encourage elementary school children to walk or ride bicycles to school.**

More than 50 individual schools and municipalities returned completed surveys in response to initial outreach efforts by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT). Organizing efforts are focusing on communities that have indicated a strong interest in the program.

Under the leadership of **Marqy Studer of Livable Walkable Communities**, school administrators from **Nashua** schools have formed a citywide task force. It will coordinate

the efforts of smaller groups at individual schools.

In our state's capital city, a well-established effort by the Safe Routes to School Advisory Group (sponsored by **the Greater Concord Safe Community Coalition**) will focus on Conant Elementary School and Rundlett Middle School. The active group has been promoting walking and bicycling to school since 2000. Nurse **Debra Samaha** of Concord Hospital's Injury Prevention Program has provided much of the staff support.

Lebanon has scheduled a task force kickoff meeting, also for a group of schools. **David Brooks of the city's planning department** is coordinating the effort with the **Lebanon Pedestrian and Bicyclist Advisory Committee.**

**Holly Harris, the Gilford Police Department's school resource officer**, is pulling together a task force for the elementary and middle schools in her Lakes Region community.

Farther to the north, **Anne Waldron, the school nurse**, is organizing a task force for the **Warren Village**

Welcome to the first issue of New Hampshire's **Safe Routes to School** electronic newsletter.

It is being e-mailed to educators, municipal officials, and individuals and organizations that might be interested in the program.

To be removed from our distribution list, reply with the word "Remove" and your e-mail address in the subject line.

We welcome new subscribers. Simply send the name and e-mail address to [jcorrigan@dot.state.nh.us](mailto:jcorrigan@dot.state.nh.us).

**School.** The group will hold a kickoff session on May 3.

Meetings have also been scheduled in **Charlestown, Gorham, Portsmouth, Tuftonboro, and Strafford.**

John W. Corrigan, the SRTS coordinator for the NHDOT, will focus on this initial round of school and community meetings through the first two weeks of May. It is anticipated that a **request for proposals** for the **first round of funding** will be issued in later in that month.

Outreach efforts will continue. **Schools and municipalities that have not yet returned the preliminary surveys are encouraged to do so.** (The form is available on the [NHSRTS Web site](#).) Communities that are already

forming their planning task forces will be in the best position to complete for reimbursement in the initial round. Watch the Web site for proposed funding criteria.

For more information:

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[http://www.nh.gov/dot/bureaus/planning/SRTS\\_home.htm](http://www.nh.gov/dot/bureaus/planning/SRTS_home.htm)

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Read a [Boston Globe article](#) about the New Hampshire SRTS program.

Visit the NHDOT [Pedestrian and Bicycle Web site](#)

***Save the Date:***

Healthy Eating  
Active Living  
Forum

Celebrating our collective work and identifying strategies to develop and implement a statewide plan for reducing obesity.

June 26, 2007 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Grappone Center, Concord

For information, visit:  
[www.hnhfoundation.org](http://www.hnhfoundation.org)